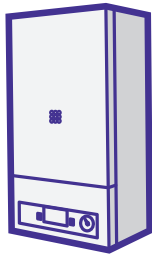




What is Carbon Monoxide?

CO is produced by the incomplete burning of fuels such as coal, wood, oil and natural gas. The shortage of oxygen leads to the creation of CO instead of the usually produced carbon dioxide CO₂. Carbon monoxide is produced when a fuel is not burnt properly. The most common sources are faulty boilers, gas fires and cookers.



Boilers

Look out for gas flames burning orange or yellow instead of blue.



Fires

Fires becoming difficult to light could be an indication that fuel is not burning correctly.



Cookers

Watch out for sooty stains on or above appliances which burn fuel.

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas which cannot be seen, smelt or heard and is known as 'the silent killer'. The only certified way to detect CO is with an audible carbon monoxide alarm. Only a small amount (approximately 150 ppm) can cause nausea, convulsions, loss of consciousness and ultimately kill, yet less than a third of households have fitted a CO alarm.

Keep an eye on other potential sources of CO:



Oil or solid fuel cookers



Barbecues



Oil and gas boilers



Wood or gas fireplaces



Clogged chimneys

4000

people go to A&E with suspected CO poisoning

200

people are hospitalised

50

estimated deaths in England and Wales due to CO poisoning